

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AF:TWSEELYE:SBA

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

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TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

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CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, US, SG

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO
PRESIDENT SENGHOR:

2. "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: SINCE MY LAST MESSAGE TO YOU,
WE HAVE MADE FURTHER PROGRESS ON RHODESIA. I WANT TO
SHARE WITH YOU MY ESTIMATE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND I
HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE ME YOUR WISE COUNSEL.

3. AS YOU KNOW, THE BRITISH HAVE ANNOUNCED THE CONVENING
OF A CONFERENCE WHICH WILL START THE PROCESS TOWARD
MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL
KEEP THE PRESSURE UP ON SMITH IN CONNECTION WITH THE
NEGOTIATIONS AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL USE YOUR INFLUENCE
WITH THE AFRICAN LEADERS TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY DO NOT
PUSH THINGS BEYOND WHAT CAN REASONABLY BE ACHIEVED. THE
PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF THE SETTLEMENT HAVE BEEN ACCOM-
PLISHED. SOME DETAILS NEED TO BE WORKED OUT STILL. BUT

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THE QUICKER A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED, THE

QUICKER MAJORITY RULE WILL BE ACHIEVED. YOU CAN COUNT ON US TO CONTINUE TO USE OUR INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL REASONS CERTAIN AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO MAKE SOME EXTREME PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH NEVERTHELESS COULD AFFECT THE PROGRESS IN WHICH WE ARE ENGAGED. HOWEVER, WE TOO ARE UNDER PRESSURE AND EXTREME PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND UNREALISTIC PUBLIC DEMANDS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO LEND OUR CONTINUING SUPPORT. THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS AND IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF NO PARTY TO JEOPARDIZE THAT PROGRESS.

5. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO MUTE THE PUBLIC DEBATE AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO ALLOW ALL PARTIES TO PREPARE FOR THE CONFERENCE IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH GIVES THE BEST CHANCES OF SUCCESS. FOR SUCCESS WILL MEAN THAT IN A VERY SHORT SPACE OF TIME THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN RHODESIA WILL HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED AND AN AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER HEADING AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD ZIMBABWE TO FULL INDEPENDENCE WITHIN TWO YEARS.

6. WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA, THE CONDITIONS FOR AGREEMENT, IN MY JUDGMENT, NOW EXIST. IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS IN A SETTLEMENT WHICH I HAVE COMMUNICATED ALREADY, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOW INFORMED ME THAT IT IS PREPARED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE WINDHOEK CONFERENCE SENDS ONLY A REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION TO GENEVA. I CONSIDER THIS CONCESSION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE AN ENTIRELY NEW FORUM. WE ARE

PREPARED TO USE OUR INFLUENCE TO MAKE SURE THAT PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE BUT IN ALL FAIRNESS WE HAVE COME CLOSE TO REACHING THE OUTSIDE LIMIT OF WHAT SOUTH AFRICA CAN CONTRIBUTE.

7. I BELIEVE A CONFERENCE CAN BE CONVENED RAPIDLY AND THE DESIRED OUTCOME OBTAINED IF THOSE, LIKE YOURSELF,
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WHO ARE INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO SEE THAT THIS IS THE CASE. AS SOON AS THERE IS AN AFRICAN CONSENSUS ON HOW TO PROCEED, I AM CONFIDENT THE PROPOSALS I HAVE DESCRIBED CAN BE ADVANCED IN A MANNER MOST APPROPRIATE TO ENSURE SUCCESS.

8. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU AND TAKE PLEASURE IN SENDING MY WARMEST REGARDS. SINCERELY, HENRY A.

KISSINGER. UNQTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PROGRESS REPORTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 10/15/76, TEXT NOT-TRANSMITTED TO ISO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE256247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWSEELYE:SBA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840084-0728, N760007-0671
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761046/aaaabnky.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR
TAGS: PFOR, PSDC, RH, US, SG, (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD SEDAR), (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: DAKAR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006